

Men' Bible Fellowship

Proverbs 26

1. The verses 1-3 are speaking of the fool. In verse 1 snow in the summer is unusual but rain in the harvest could be disastrous as rain can rot the crops. What is Solomon then saying about honor and the fool? What kinds of problems can happen by honoring a fool? Read verse 3. In verse 3 we see a whip and a bridle. What are they used for? Explain what the rod to the back of the fool is to do? What should be our motivation?
2. Read verses 4 and 5. While these 2 verses may seem to contradict each other on the surface, Solomon is actually telling us that either verse will apply depending on the situation. How can we find ourselves answering a fool "according to his folly"? What are some motivators that could provoke us to respond in the flesh? (See Eccl 7:9, Proverbs 13:10.) How do we avoid sinking to the fool's level? (See James 1:18-20, Galatians 5:16). If verse 4 says we **should not** answer the fool according to his folly, what is the best approach? (See Matthew 7:6, Proverbs 29:11, Proverbs 21:23.) On the other hand, if verse 5 says we **should** answer, what should our approach be? (See Ephesians 4:29, 2 Timothy 3:16-17.) How can we know when to apply verse 4 or verse 5? (James 1:5, 1 John 2:27)
3. Solomon uses very graphic language in verse 6. What is the message he is trying to get across to the reader? What is different here from 1 Corinthians 1:27?
4. In verses 7-9, Solomon starts off each one with the word "like". Read each one and discuss what Solomon sees as the nature of the foolish.
5. Read verse 11. Have you ever had any experience with someone that makes that same mistakes in life repeatedly? Has this verse ever applied in your own life? Does this verse only apply to non-believers? Why do you think Solomon chose such disgusting imagery in this verse? Knowing this, what should our reaction be to "the sin that so easily ensnares us"? How do we deal with it? (Hebrews 12:1-2, Romans 6:11)
6. Read verse 17. What is implied by the expression of "taking a dog by the ears"? What is implied by "passes by"? What tempts us to stop and get involved in someone else's argument? (Proverbs 18:8, Proverbs 29:22, Proverbs 28:25, 1 Corinthians 3:3)